The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of events affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and political fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1510 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 1940 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 30, NO. 12

FACING *the* FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

The lunatic fringe in our populace, which has been in mourning since the death of Huey Long, is now hailing a new leader, John L. Lewis.

Evidence is piling up on all sides that Lewis is seeking to mobilize the moronic into a third party with himself as their candidate for President of the United States this year.

The black-browed bellyacher of the CIO actually believes he can stir up enough unrest and discontent to influence any candidate in the Democrats or Republicans may nominate and be elected himself.

To this end, he first entered into an offensive and defensive alliance with the Communists. The latter think they can use Lewis as long as he serves their purposes and then, dump him overboard. Lewis thinks he can use the Communists as long as they serve his purposes and then give them the bum's rush. Nice people.

The second step in Lewis' campaign was to raise a $750,000 political fund by levying $1 assessments against the miners in January and February.

His next move was to try to put the blast on Roosevelt, Garner and McNutt, plus the whole Republican Party during the United Mine Workers convention.

He's a Shy Candidate

During all these maneuvers, Lewis kept his true purposes hidden. He almost gave his hand away, however, when the American Youth Congress came to Washington. This aggregation of witless whippersnappers went to the White House and got a sound spanking from President Roosevelt for playing with Red fire. Whereupon Lewis came to their rescue and applied salve to their wounded pride by praising Roosevelt. Their cheers nullied Lewis' reserve to such an extent that he almost launched into a campaign speech then and there. But he saved himself in time and merely advised the yipping youthers to enlist in the CIO's Non-Partisan League.

For it is not Lewis' strategy at this time to appear openly as an active candidate. That would be fatal. His scheme is to engineer a ground-swell among the lunatic fringe in all parts of the country for a third party with himself as the standard-bearer and then "reluctantly" consent to run.

The machinery is in motion already. Recently a council of CIO unions in Pittsburgh adopted resolutions calling on Lewis to initiate a third party. The other day in Connecticut, the Bridgeport County branch of Lewis' Non-Partisan League also adopted a third-party resolution. In Ohio, the CIO news, official State publication of a few scattered CIO unions, declared in its main news story March 11 that "it is believed in many circles that John L. Lewis strongly favors an independent ticket for Ohio." In Massachusetts, the CIO State Industrial Council convention killed a Roosevelt third-term resolution and defeated a declaration condemning Communism.

The Line-up—For and Against

Thus Lewis has started the ball rolling. It is likely that within a few more weeks we will be hearing of more third-party resolutions because Lewis controls the purse strings and when he gives the word the local CIO organizations, most of which are penniless, jump to obey.

It may be interesting to survey the line-up as it stands for and against Lewis as a candidate. He counts on support from the following:

1—CIO unions which are starving or are dominated by Communists.
2—The Communist Party and its fellow-travelers.
3—The scattered remnants of Huey Long's lunatics.
4—Bumpers who have lost their farms and shirkers who have nothing of their own to share.
5—Pensioners, because the CIO adopted a $100 a month Government pension plan at its last convention.
6—Mentally jitterbuggy juveniles.
7—Any other riffraff he can muster.

There is the Lewis line-up. Isn't it beautiful to behold?

Fortunately, the great body of decent, common-sense American citizenry stands stalwartly against the slender of this motley crew. And in their ranks Lewis will find the great majority of the members of his own CIO. Even they won't follow him into folly. The Amalgamated Clothing Workers and the Hosiery Workers have declared against the third party. The Non-Partisan League of Illinois kicked Lewis in the face and endorsed Roosevelt only last week. It won't be long before Lewis will have just the Communists left. And how long can he count on them?

WE WON THESE, TOO

As the result of American Federation of Labor victories in National Labor Relations Board elections, the board announced the following certifications of A. F. of L. unions as collective bargaining representatives:

International Union of Operating Engineers, Local No. 5, as the sole collective bargaining agency selected by a majority of the engineers in the power house of Hy-Grade Food Products Corporation at its plant in Detroit, Michigan.

United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers International Union, as the sole collective bargaining agency selected by a majority of the production employes of Standard Hat Company, Atlanta, Georgia.

Pattern Makers League of North America as the sole collective bargaining agency selected by a majority of the pattern makers and workers in the research and experimental departments of the Toledo plant of Willys-Overland Motors, Inc.

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local Union No. 3, as the sole collective bargaining agency selected by a majority of the employes of Silvray Lighting, Inc., New York City.

Boot and Shoe Workers Union, Local 141, as the sole collective bargaining agency designated by a majority of all the employes of J. Edwards & Co., Philadelphia.

LABOR BOARD ELECTIONS

Washington, D. C.—The National Labor Relations Board announced the following collective bargaining elections involving American Federation of Labor Unions will be held within the next fifteen days:

Employes of the Wadsworth Watch Case Company, Dayton, Kentucky, to determine whether they desire to be represented by International Association of Machinists, District No. 54 (AFL), by the Wadsworth Watch Case Company Workers Alliance, or by neither.

Production and office employes of Dunkley Patten Company, Inc., Battle Creek, Michigan, plant to determine whether they desire to be represented by International Brotherhood of Bookbinders (AFL), by Independent Association of Pattern Makers, Inc., or by neither.

Employes of Portland Iron Works, Portland, Oregon, to determine whether or not they desire to be represented by Millmen's Lodge No. 68, International Association of Machinists.

Production and maintenance employes of Farnsworth Television and Radio Corporation in its Marion, Indiana, plant, to determine whether or not they desire to be represented by International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 31160.

On petition of the company among all the coal-barge and stake-boat captains of James McWilliams Blue Line, Inc., New York City, to determine whether they desire to be represented by Inland Boatmen's Division, National Maritime Union (CIO); by Tidewater Section 1, Local Union No. 953-1, International Longshoremen's Association (AFL), or by neither.

Among employes of Elliott Bay Mill Company, Seattle, Washington, to determine whether they desire to be represented by Plywood & Veneer Workers Union Local No. 26 (CIO); Local 2618, chartered by the United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners of America (AFL), or by neither.

Among production and maintenance employes of Ironwood Works, Ironwood, Illinois, to determine whether or not they wish to be represented by Metal Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor.

UNION LABOR LIFE INSURANCE THRIVES

New York, N. Y.—Matthew Woll, president of the Union Labor Life Insurance Company, reported that its income in 1939 was $1,264,807.17, with payments to policy holders totaling $756,911.67 and all other disbursements at $237,154.50.

The company has individual insurance policies in force amounting to $36,000,000, group policies total $10,784.

"Our income for the year was sufficient to meet all our obligations promptly and to permit additional investments to be made," commented Mr. Woll said. "Our payments to or on account of policy holders during the year 1939 for death and disability claims, matured endowments, annuities and surrender values amounted to $756,912."

The total admitted assets of the company are $3,216,680.16, which cover all liabilities.

BACK PAY FOR 'RED CAPS' DEMANDED IN COURT ACTION

Court action to collect thousands of dollars in back pay for "red caps" who have been cheated out of tips by rings that dominate the Ware-Hour Act, was instituted by the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks in the Federal Courts of Texas and St. Louis.

The lawsuits charge certain railroads have been forcing station attendants to split tips along although the Wage-Hour Act, as amended May 1939 paid a minimum of 30 cents an hour.

A. F. of L. Wins Smashing Victory In Hood Rubber Co. Elections

Watertown, Mass.—Swamping the CIO and company union advocates, the American Federation of Labor has secured a smashing victory in the collective bargaining election among employes of the United Rubber Company held here by the Labor Board.

The vote was:

A. F. of L.	1,566
C. I. O.	189
Company Union	501

This sweeping victory, coming on top of the overwhelming vote for the American Federation of Labor in the United States Rubber Company election in Providence, R. I., the week before, is expected to give the A. F. of L. a clear field in organizing the entire rubber industry in New England.

The two consecutive crushing defeats of the CIO have disheartened their forces and struck a severe blow at their efforts to gain a foothold in New England.

President William Green congratulated John J. Manning, A. F. of L. representative of the A. F. of L. and the leaders of the A. F. of L. Rubber Workers Union No. 21914 for their fine showing and promised them full support in obtaining better conditions for the membership.

A Message to General Motors Workers!

This is the first of a series of articles on the issues involved in the forthcoming Labor Board elections in General Motors plants.

If you are an automobile worker employed by General Motors this important message is addressed directly to you.

In a few weeks you will have to make a decision which will vitally affect your future. That decision is whether to vote for the American Federation of Labor or for the CIO in the coming Labor Board elections.

The issues are clear cut.

If you want a strong union to represent you, a union concerned only in obtaining higher wages, shorter hours and better working conditions for you, an efficient Central Labor Union in every city to back you up. It has a State Federation of Labor in every State to give you further support. In Washington, the American Federation of Labor is powerful and highly influential. It has earned the respect and confidence of the American people. It is a patriotic organization. It won't stand for Communism or any other "ism" opposed to Americanism. Its leaders are not ambitions for personal political power. They won't tell you down the river to a political party or boss. They won't levy assessments against you for political campaigns. The American Federation of Labor is stronger today than ever before in its history and it wants to help the automobile workers get on their feet and build up a powerful and responsible union.

Now take a look on the other side of the fence. The CIO is starved for money. It does not operate on a self-supporting basis. Its dictator, John L. Lewis, has been forced to drain off funds from the United Mine Workers treasury to support the CIO. The outfit was so badly in hock at the time of its last convention in San Francisco that Lewis was forced to omit a financial report to the delegates.

The membership of the CIO is vanishing more rapidly than last winter's snowfall. It never had started to make public a report on paid-up membership. He just makes "claims," with no proof to back them. Lewis is now playing a political game to the exclusion of CIO interests. He is playing ball with the Communists to get their help. He is following the Communist Party line. That is why he denounced President Roosevelt. The Communists were angry at the President because he expressed the horror which all American citizens shared over Russia's indefensible invasion of Finland. Lewis spoke up for the Communists. He attacked the President for condemning Soviet Russia. Is that the kind of man you want for a leader? If you do, you are doomed to be Stalinized or Hitlerized.

The CIO Communist leadership has involved the automobile workers in a dispute which has alienated public respect and public confidence. It has taken millions of dollars out of the pockets of the hard-working needless strikes. It has not tried to organize a union for you. It has tried to mobilize you as a political army. It is not your friend. It is is the enemy of your best interests.

Auto Workers of Norwood
Vote A. F. of L. 10 to 1

In a straw vote taken in a recent election of local officers of the union, the United Auto Workers of Norwood voted that they preferred the A. F. of L. 10 to 1.

According to orders from the National Labor Relations Board the Auto Workers of the General Motors Company will hold elections for collective bargaining April 17. The election will determine the representative for all the plants in the country. The Auto Workers of Norwood have demonstrated they are staunchly A. F. of L.

a union that you yourself will run, then you must vote for the American Federation of Labor.

But if you will be satisfied with a weak union, one that is broke and going to pieces, that is more interested in promoting a Communist revolution than in protecting your welfare, that is dominated and directed by Communists, then you should take the CIO.

Are you sick of constant strikes, payless pay days and endless picketing? Then vote for the American Federation of Labor.

Would you rather strike than work? Would you rather be a stooge for a gang that is taking orders from Moscow than a free American citizen? Do you want a Commissar standing over you like the workers in Soviet Russia? Then vote for the CIO.

The American Federation of Labor has a proud record of sixty years of achievement. It has 4,250,000 paid up members. It has a strong and

Peaceful Picketing Fully Upheld By N. Y. State's Highest Court

Albany, N. Y.—Organized labor won an important legal victory when the Court of Appeals, highest tribunal in New York State, upheld by a unanimous ruling March 11 that only violent and unlawful picketing can be enjoined by the State courts.

Peaceful picketing is permissible even though not one employe of the store was an employe of the picketed establishment, the court held.

Thomas J. Lyons, president of the State Federation of Labor, hailed the decision as a great victory for labor. He said:

"The principle enunciated by the court is of prime importance to the labor movement of New York State and it is to be hoped that some of the judges of inferior courts will fall to take note of this splendid decision."

By its ruling, the Court of Appeals modified a permanent injunction issued by Special Term of the New York Supreme Court restraining the Retail Women's Apparel Sales People's Union, Local 1,125 from picketing May's Department Store in Brooklyn.

Financial Aid For 1,300 Striking Luggage Workers Asked by A.F.L.

Washington, D. C.—Financial help for 1,300 striking luggage workers in Pittsburgh, was asked by the President William Green in a letter sent to all organizations affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

In his appeal, Mr. Green said the strikers are asking for an agreement with their employers, negotiated through collective bargaining, which would provide for recognition of their union, the International Ladies' Garment Workers, Pocketbook and Novelty Workers Union, decent wages and tolerable conditions of employment.

The American Federation of Labor itself has already contributed to the relief fund for the strikers but more money is urgently necessary to provide them and their families from starvation. Mr. Green declared in his letter:

"I can truthfully say it is a most worthy strike. It means much to the organized labor movement of the State of Virginia. The cause of the strikers is just. Their demands are reasonable. They deserve to win. Any financial help you may give them will be deeply appreciated and worthfully distributed."

Contributions should be sent to Secretary-Treasurer George Meany, American Federation of Labor, A. F. of L. Building, Washington, D. C.

LOAN SHARKS COLLECT 365 PER CENT INTEREST

New York, N. Y.—A three-months' investigation of loan sharks who charge interest of 365 per cent and enforce repayment of the loan by rigging criminal prosecutions against borrowers resulted in the arrest of four men indicted for conspiracy.

Assistant District Attorney John J. Bennett, Jr., who initiated the campaign, explained that the loan racketeers required borrowers to sign checks dated ahead, as of the due-date of the loan, and make false affidavits that they had received the money on the date. If the loans were not repaid on the due-date, the checks were presented the borrowers with arrest for obtaining money under false pretenses.

Mr. Bennett estimated 500,000 persons in New York City borrow $50,000,000 a year from the loan sharks, and that four men arrested were doing business at the rate of $100,000 a week.

News Briefs

INTERNATIONAL LABOR HONORS WM. GREEN

Paris, France.—William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, was elected vice chairman of the Executive Committee of the International Federation of Trade Union Unions, it was announced here.

The Executive Committee, with Sir Walter Citrine, president of the IFTU presiding, also announced a special meeting of the labor movements of neutral countries will be held to discuss workers' problems growing out of the European war.

WHITE HOUSE NEWSMEN RIDICULE JOHN L. LEWIS

Washington, D. C.—The shrewdest political observers in the nation's capital, gathered together at the annual dinner of the White House Correspondents' Association to President Roosevelt, ridiculed John L. Lewis' pretensions to political power.

In a newsreel shown to the diners the various Presidential possibilities were depicted. One of the biggest laughs came when Senator Wheeler of Montana was pictured kissing babies to get votes and then receiving the "kiss of death" from the leader of the CIO.

BAKERY UNION WINS CASE AND $2,090 IN BACK PAY

Washington, D. C.—The National Labor Relations Board announced approval of a consent decree to be presented to the United States Circuit Court of Appeals in full settlement of all issues involved in its January 11, 1940, decision involving Collins Baking Co., Columbus, Georgia, and Bakery & Confectionery Workers Local Union 252, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

By the terms of the decree the company agrees to cease discouraging membership in the union and to award $2,090 in back pay losses to five employes.

GREEN ORDERS A. F. OF L. AID FOR MINE DISASTER VICTIMS

Washington, D. C.—President William Green of the American Federation of Labor promptly instructed local A. F. of L. organizations to extend all possible aid to the families of the victims of miners who were killed and injured in the disastrous Willow Grove Mine explosion in Ohio.

In a telegram to George J. Barrett, secretary of the Belmont County Labor Council of Belmont County, Ohio, Mr. Green said:

"Appeal to your central body and to other American Federation of Labor unions in adjacent Ohio to render all assistance within your power to relieve and to extend all help possible. We deplore the awful tragedy and the terrible loss of life resulting from the explosion. My heart and my sympathy goes out to the bereaved families."

TRACY BLAMES JOHN L. LEWIS FOR LABOR PEACE FAILURE

Washington, D. C.—Responsibility for failure to achieve labor peace was placed on John L. Lewis and the CIO by Daniel J. Tracy at a highly successful meeting of the Executive Council of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Wide progress in organizing new members was reported by the council and an extensive program for further organizing drives was approved.

The council endorsed the anti-campaign launched by Assistant Attorney General Thurman Arnold under cover of the anti-trust laws.

CHEAPER HOUSING URGED FOR LOW-INCOME GROUP

Philadelphia, Pa.—Eighty thousand families of men living in substandard dwellings, the Philadelphia Committee on Public Affairs reported, and fail in the lowest income group receive less than $1,000 a year." The committee praised the work of the Philadelphia Housing Authority in providing decent housing for workers with small incomes.

ENGINEERS WIN PAY BOOST

San Francisco, Calif.—Judge Walter Perry Johnson handed down an arbitration award granting wage increases of 5, 6 and 8½ dollars a month to all members of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 64, and 8½ dollars in all of San Francisco's major hotels.

TRUCE ENDS DOCK STRIKE

Jacksonville, Fla.—Agreement on a plan for a fact-finding committee to work out a wage settlement satisfactory to both sides ended a strike of 8,000 members of the International Longshoremen's Association in seven Southeastern ports. The committee must report its findings by April 15.

New Campaign For Constructive Labor Act Amendments Launched

ALL ABOARD FOR THE 1940 CENSUS!

Green Urges Union Members to Answer Questions Completely and Accurately.

Washington, D. C.—One hundred per cent cooperation of union members in taking the 1940 census in complete success was urged by President Green of the American Federation of Labor in a letter sent to all central labor unions.

The census of 1940 will be taken on April 1," Mr. Green said. "Since labor depends upon the census for information which cannot be had from any other source, I am asking all members of the American Federation of Labor to give their full cooperation to census enumerators and make sure that the enumerators are given complete and accurate answers to all census questions.

"This year the census includes more questions important to labor than ever before. Questions on employment, income, and housing will give us information long needed and will help immensely in our struggle against unemployment and low wages and in our efforts for better homes.

"I am confident you will see that members of all your affiliated local unions are informed about the census and asked to cooperate in answering all questions accurately. Since memory lapses will often give false information, they too must understand its value and the importance of accuracy.

"The time is now short before the census begins. I urge you therefore to take all necessary measure to see that union members are notified even if their union does not meet before April 1."

Lewis-Hillman Break?

The following is reprinted from the March 18 issue of Newsweek Magazine.

Despite aides' efforts to smooth things over, an open rift seems imminent between John L. Lewis and Sidney Hillman, probably the CIO's second most powerful figure. Their mutual hostility came to an official gathering in Washington last fortnight was significant. Behind the trouble are these factors: (1) Hillman is intent on peace with the AFL; Lewis treats the idea with disdain. (2) Hillman openly opposes the CIO's invasion of the construction field, for which Lewis is ardent. (3) Hillman says he's grown at Lewis' half-heartedness in efforts to rid the CIO of Communists and fellow travelers. (4) Hillman is sore at Lewis' habit of consulting his own "kitchen cabinet" instead of other top CIO leaders. (5) Lewis' anti-Roosevelt speech at Columbus infuriated Hillman, a staunch New Dealer.

Unless Lewis soon comes half way, Hillman's intimates insist he and his Amalgamated Clothing Workers will quit the CIO, perhaps inducing the Textile Workers and others to come along.

NEARLY ONE MILLION GOVERNMENT EMPLOYES

Washington, D. C.—The United States Civil Service Commission reported that civil employment in the Federal Government increased by 12,000 in the last half of calendar year 1939. The increase was from 980,210 at the end of June to 992,305 at the end of December. The defense armaments program resulted in the addition of 25,000 employes to the rolls in the last six months of 1939. Classified positions in the entire service numbered 660,854 in December.

BIG LABOR LAW PROGRAM PUSHED BY TEXAS UNIONS

Austin, Tex.—The Texas State Federation of Labor is determined that the workers shall enjoy a large degree of legislative protection. Henry W. Acreman, executive secretary of the organization, outlined the following among the most important items in the legislative program:

"Amendments to the motor vehicle registration law to permit taxi drivers to make special trips beyond the city limits for compensation; amendment to the law amendment to improve conditions of injured workers; changes in the voting law to insure a secret ballot; a State labor relations act to supplement the national law; ratification of the child labor amendment to the federal constitution; State plumbers license law; State apprentice law passed at the last session, but vetoed by the governor; amendment of the fire fighters pension law to remove clauses held unconstitutional by the Texas Supreme Court; provision to extend and improve the two-platoon system in city fire departments.

DISMISSAL OF 700,000 WPA WORKERS PLANNED

Kansas City.—In order to keep the Works Projects Administration within the Congressional appropriation of $1,477,000,000 for the current fiscal year approximately 700,000 persons would have to be dismissed from the WPA by June 30, Howard O. Hunter, deputy WPA commissioner, announced here. The WPA rolls now total 2,321,000. The slash will begin with 200,000 in April, Mr. Hunter said.

A. F. of L. Hits Smith Committee Proposals; Wagner Urges 5-Man Labor Board.

Washington, D. C.—A new drive for the adoption of constructive amendments to the National Labor Relations Act was launched this week as President William Green warned Congress that failure to take such action at this session "may result in future moves to destroy or repeal the entire Act."

In a public statement, Mr. Green announced that the American Federation of Labor rejected the amendments introduced by the Smith Congressional Committee because as a whole they "strike in a destructive way at vital, fundamental principles of the Labor Relations Act."

At the same time Mr. Green urged favorable consideration of changes in the law proposed by the American Federation of Labor to assure just and impartial administration and to safeguard the Act's fundamental guarantees of protection to labor.

Immediate progress was scored when Senator Robert F. Wagner, of New York, author of the law, announced on the floor of the Senate that he would favor increasing the personnel of the National Labor Relations Board from three to five members.

This is the major amendment sponsored by the American Federation of Labor. Senator Wagner's approval leaves the CIO out on a limb as the only group refusing to countenance such a change. Opposition of the CIO is to be expected because it has benefited from the biased, unfair and partisan rulings of the present board.

In his statement, Mr. Green declared that investigation of the NLRB conducted by the Smith Committee at public hearings had fully established the A. F. of L.'s charges of maladministration against the Labor Board. He added:

"It now becomes the duty of Congress to take such action as the facts warrant and demand in order to prevent the Labor Relations Board from continuing to defeat and pervert the administration of the Labor Relations Act. It seems inconceivable that Congress should fail to discharge its duty in this respect. Failure to act at this session may result in future moves to destroy or repeal the entire Act.

"Amendments to the Labor Relations Act have been prepared by the Smith Committee and submitted to the Labor Committee of the House of Representatives. Some of these amendments are practical and constructive.

"However, it is the opinion of the American Federation of Labor that the amendments offered by the Smith Committee as a whole strike in a destructive way at vital, fundamental principles of the Labor Relations Act. The American Federation of Labor has repeatedly stated and emphasized its opposition to any impairment of the essential principles of the Labor Relations Act in any way whatsoever. We are convinced that its principles and its fundamentals shall be preserved and protected. The Labor Relations Act remains the Magna Carta of Labor. Our appeal to Congress is to amend and change the administration features of the Act and policies of the Labor Relations Board without impairing its fundamentals so that the Labor Relations Act will be administered fairly to all, just to labor and industry, and in accordance with its spirit and its letter.

"It is the opinion of the American Federation of Labor that amendments designed to accomplish this purpose should be simple, direct and constructive. If amendments providing for a fundamental change in the Board; the right of employers to petition for elections under certain conditions; the abolition of the right of the Board to invalidate contracts honestly and fairly negotiated through collective bargaining; the acceptance of the American Federation of Labor recommendations relating to the selection and establishment of the appropriate collective bargaining unit, and the acceptance of a simplified form of administrative and judicial procedure, were adopted by Congress, the Labor Relations Act could then be applied in a way to meet with general public approval and accord equal and, exact justice to all.

"The American Federation of Labor will petition and appeal to Congress to act favorably upon these recommendations and to adopt these simplified, limited amendments to the Labor Relations Act."

IT TOOK ALMOST 3-YEARS TO GET THIS NLRB VERDICT

Washington, D. C.—Despite the fact that the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers filed a petition with the National Labor Relations Board first shortly after the certification of representatives almost three years ago, the NLRB has just got around to deciding the Empire District Electric Co. case.

After all this delay the Board directed the company, which is the Joplin, Missouri, subsidiary of Cities Service, to cease discouraging membership in the I.B.E.W. The Board found that shortly after the I.B.E.W. filed its petition on Oct. 18, 1937, the company waged a campaign among employes to obtain resignations from the union. At the hearing twenty-two signed resignations, dated from Oct. 26 to Nov. 10, 1937, were introduced into evidence.